

COVID-19 Guidance for Places of Worship and Providers of Religious Services and Cultural Ceremonies, Beyond the Blueprint

On Tuesday, June 15, 2021, capacity restrictions and other industry requirements under the color coded risk tiers were lifted. Some limited exceptions are still in place for [Mega Events](#).

COVID-19 in the Community

COVID-19 is still causing illness and hospitalizations in Sacramento County. Variants of COVID-19 continue to pose a significant risk.

Vaccinations, sanitation measures and face coverings have helped reduced the spread of COVID-19, but businesses and customers need to remain vigilant.

This guidance applies to places of worship and providers of religious services and cultural ceremonies.

Restrictions that ended on June 15, 2021 (except for Mega Events) include:

- Physical distancing
- Capacity limits on businesses
- County tier system

Face Coverings (effective March 1, 2022)

Masks are **required for all individuals (vaccinated and unvaccinated)** in the following indoor settings:

- [Public transportation](#)
- Indoors in [K-12 schools](#) and [childcare](#) (through March 11, 2022)
- [Emergency shelters](#) and [cooling/heating centers](#)
- [Healthcare settings](#)
- State and local [correctional facilities and detention centers](#)
- [Homeless shelters](#)
- [Long Term Care Settings and Adult and Senior Care Facilities](#)

Masks are **strongly recommended for all individuals regardless of vaccine status** in indoor public settings and businesses (examples: retail, restaurants, theaters, family entertainment centers, meetings, state and local government offices serving the public)

Surgical masks or higher-level respirators (e.g., N95s, KN95s, KF94s) with good fit are highly recommended. Refer to CDPH [Get the Most out of Masking](#) and see [CDPH Masking Guidance](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#) for information about types of masks, the most effective masks, and ensuring a well-fitted mask.

Refer to [CDPH Guidance for the Use of Face Masks](#) for more information.

No person can be prevented from wearing a mask as a condition of participation in an activity or entry into a business.

Prevention Measures

To continue reducing the spread of COVID-19 within the community, the following prevention measures are still encouraged:

- Provide outdoor options
- Encourage social distancing where lines and gatherings might occur
- Consider keeping tables spaced at least 6 feet apart
- Provide hand sanitizer for public and worker use

The following prevention measures are recommended everywhere and are required in food facilities (will be checked during inspections):

- Use an approved sanitizer to wipe down surfaces throughout your facility on a routine basis.
- Be sure that all handwashing sinks are always stocked with liquid soap and paper towels.

Mega Events

Mega Events are defined as events drawing greater than *1,000 (indoors) and 10,000 (outdoors)* attendees. CDPH has issued guidelines for Mega Events. For further information, please refer to [CDPH Beyond the Blueprint Guidance](#).

- **Indoor Mega Events (1,000 attendees)** - Vaccination verification or negative test result is strongly recommended.
 - If implemented, venue and event operators are strongly recommended to not use self-attestation as a mode of verification but rather use verification options for providing proof of vaccination in the [CDPH Vaccine Record Guidelines & Standards](#).
 - All businesses and venue operators should check the identification of all attendees age 18 and over to validate their vaccination record or proof of negative test.
 - Acceptable identification is any document that includes the name of the person and photograph.
 - Attendees are strongly recommended to wear masks and should follow [CDPH Guidance for Face Coverings](#). Refer to [CDPH Get the Most Out of Masking](#) for more information on getting the best fit and filtration for masks.
 - Information should be prominently placed on all communications, including the reservation and ticketing systems, to ensure guests are aware that the State strongly recommends that they be fully vaccinated or obtain a negative COVID-19 test prior to attending the event.
 - Venues should consider making masks (preferably respirators) available to attendees upon request.

- **Outdoor Mega Events (10,000 attendees)** - Verification of fully vaccinated status or pre-entry negative test result is recommended for attendees.
 - If implemented, venue and event operators are recommended to not use self-attestation as a mode of verification but rather use verification options for providing proof of vaccination in the [CDPH Vaccine Record Guidelines & Standards](#).
 - Follow current [CDPH Guidance for the Use of Face Coverings](#)
 - Information will be prominently placed on all communications, including the reservation and ticketing systems, to ensure guests are aware that the State strongly recommends that they be fully vaccinated or obtain a negative COVID-19 test report prior to attending the event.
 - Venues should make masks available masks to attendees upon request.
 - No physical distancing restrictions for attendees, customers and guests

Schools

Refer to [SCPH Guidance for K-12 Schools](#)

Guidance for Isolation and Quarantine

Refer to California Department of Public Health (CDPH) [Guidance for Isolation and Quarantine for the General Public](#) for additional information about isolation for persons testing positive for COVID-19 and quarantine for persons who have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 (unvaccinated and vaccinated).

Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Prevention Emergency Temporary Standards (ETS)

The [COVID-19 Prevention Emergency Temporary Standards](#) are still in effect. The workplace standards were updated in December 2021 to include minor revisions to be more consistent with CDPH and federal OSHA. In addition to these requirements, employers must follow public health orders on COVID-19. More information on the COVID-19 Prevention Emergency Temporary Standards is available in [Cal/OSHA's Fact Sheet](#).

In December of 2020, the Governor issued [Executive Order N-84-20](#), which states that the recommended **isolation and quarantine** periods in the ETS (also called “exclusion periods” in the ETS) will be **overridden** by any applicable isolation or quarantine recommendation by the CDPH.

March 1, 2022: The Governor issued [Executive Order N-5-22](#) which aligns the ETS with CDPH for face covering requirements.

Control Measures

- ☐ Recommend frequent handwashing and use of hand sanitizer. Assign staff to regularly check soap and paper towel dispensers are stocked and functional. Keep extra batteries available for motion sensing dispensers.
- ☐ Consider disposable glove use which may be helpful to supplement frequent handwashing or use of hand sanitizer.
- ☐ Consider posting signs in strategic and highly visible locations to remind patrons, congregants and visitors the use of face coverings is recommended.
- ☐ Consider the use of social media, website, texts, email, newsletters, etc., to communicate face covering requirements to protect congregants/visitors and workers so that they are familiar with the policies to slow the spread of COVID-19 before arriving at the facility.

- Consider providing information to all patrons, guests and attendees regarding masking recommendations for all persons, regardless of vaccine status.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

- Perform cleaning of high traffic areas such as lobbies, halls, and areas of ingress and egress including stairways, stairwells, handrails, and elevator controls.
- Frequently disinfect commonly used surfaces including doorknobs, toilets, handwashing facilities, pulpits and podiums, donation boxes or plates, altars, and pews and seating areas.
- Establish frequent cleaning and disinfection of personal work areas such as desks and cubicles and supply the necessary cleaning products.
- Consider discouraging the sharing of items used in worship and services (such as prayer books, cushions, prayer rugs, etc.) whenever possible. Provide single use, digital copies or ask congregants/visitors to bring personal items instead.
- Avoid sharing work equipment and supplies, such as phones, office equipment, computers, etc., wherever possible. Never share PPE.
- Where such items must be shared, disinfect between shifts or uses, whichever is more frequent, including the following: shared office equipment (copiers, fax machines, printers, telephones, keyboards, staplers, etc.) and shared worship items, etc., with a cleaner appropriate for the surface.
- Ensure that sanitary facilities remain operational and stocked at all times. Provide additional soap, paper towels, and hand sanitizer when needed.
- Consider providing hand sanitizer dispensers, touchless if possible, at entrances and contact areas such as meeting rooms, lobbies, and elevator landings.

Please note: For high touch surfaces where chlorine bleach may be used, the CDC recommends mixing 1/3 cup of chlorine bleach per gallon of water. Do not use scented bleach or “no-splash” bleach.

Resources:

- [Sacramento County COVID-19 Information](#)
- [California Department of Public Health \(CDPH\) Beyond the Blueprint for Industry and Business Sectors](#)
- [California Department of Public Health \(CDPH\) Guidance for the Use of Face Coverings](#)
- [California Department of Public Health \(CDPH\) Face Coving Questions and Answers](#)
- [COVID-19 Cal/OSHA Prevention Emergency Temporary Standards](#)
- [Cal/OSHA: Requirements to Protect Workers from Coronavirus](#)
- For business assistance information, contact the [Sacramento Business Environmental Resource Center \(BERC\)](#).
- [Sacramento County Environmental Management Department](#)

Questions

Sacramento County COVID-19 Hotline: (916) 875-2400

Cal/OSHA Consultation: (833) 579-0927

Summary of Revisions

6/29/2020: Initial version

7/7/2021: Added congregant to description, changed employee to worker and corrected typo.

7/15/2021: Added recommendation from County Public Health Order for vaccination individuals to wear masks in indoor settings where vaccination verification is not required and the vaccination status of others is unknown.

7/29/2021: Sacramento County Public Health Order, effective 7/30/2021. Masks required indoors for vaccinated and unvaccinated.

10/1/2021: Added additional information regarding mega events.

12/16/21: Added requirement for universal masking indoors statewide December 15, 2021 through January 15, 2022. Added testing requirement to shorten time from 72 hours from when test result is received before entry to venue/event.

12/21/21: Removed information that was no longer current pertaining to Mask requirements, Day Camps, Employee mask requirements, Overnight Camps. Removed links to out of date documents. Revised ETS [was adopted](#) on December 16, 2021. The standards become effective January 14, 2022. More information regarding forthcoming revisions available on the [Cal/OSHA website](#).

1/13/2022: Lowered threshold for Indoor Mega Event to 500 attendees and Outdoor Mega Events to 5,000 attendees. Removed effective date for requirement to show ID if over 18 for negative test. Extended effective end date for statewide public health order to mask while indoors to February 15, 2022. Updated masking requirements to recommendations per CDPH Question and Answers for Face Coverings.

1/18/2022: Updated ETS section for revisions effective 1/14/2022.

2/16/2022: CDPH Guidance for the Use of Face Coverings updated for universal masking only in specified settings and only unvaccinated persons are required to mask in in all indoor public settings. Fully vaccinated are recommended to continue indoor masking when the risk is high. Updated Mega Events to increase thresholds (1000 for indoor and 10,000 for outdoor). Removed links for Sacramento County Public Health Orders, these have been rescinded.

3/1/2022: Updated universal masking indoors to strongly recommend and added effective date of 3/11/2022 for masking requirement for schools/child care. Masking is still required universally for the rest of the congregate settings. Removed specific information for ETS and replaced with link to Cal/OSHA website.

4/1/2022: Updated Mega Events to strong recommendation to require proof of vaccination or negative test for Indoor Mega Events (previously was required).

PHO: none